

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:LAB

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.

S/S-O: D. MACK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 030982

NODIS

-STADIS - AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI VISA POLICY

REF: STATE 24955

1. POSSIBLE CRISIS OVER VISA ISSUANCE HAS BEEN PUT ASIDE, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. AMBASSADOR ALIREZA INFORMED ME FEBRUARY 6 THAT, ON HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITY, HE HAD APPROVED ISSUANCE OF SOME 25 VISAS FOR APPLICANTS SPONSORED BY TREASURY UNDER JOINT COMMISSION AUSPICES, WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO RELIGION. ALIREZA SAID HE HAD DECIDED TO APPROVE THESE VISAS WITHOUT WAITING FOR SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION FROM PRINCE SAUD, SO AS NOT TO COMPLICATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORTHCOMING SIMON VISIT. WE BELIEVE THE VISAS HE APPROVED YESTERDAY SHOULD COVER ALMOST ALL, IF NOT ALL, JOINT COMMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMING MONTH.

2. AMONG THE VISAS APPROVED YESTERDAY WAS ONE FOR SELTZER, SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH LATTER'S PROPOSED TRAVEL AS PART

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OF JOINT USG/PRIVATE INDUSTRY TEAM UNDER JOINT COMMISSION

SPONSORSHIP.

3. ALIREZA SAID HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED RESPONSE FROM SAUD ON MESSAGE OF ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO CONCERNING VISAS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF SAUD'S TRAVEL ABROAD. HE EXPECTED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH SAUD THIS WEEK END. I REITERATED OUR VERY STRONG HOPE THAT EARLIER PRAGMATIC UNDERSTANDING ON ISSUANCE OF VISAS FOR JOINT COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE RECONFIRMED.

4. SOBER AND I USED OCCASION OF THIS MEETING WITH ALIREZA ALSO TO TOUCH INFORMALLY ON SEVERAL OTHER PENDING ISSUES RELATED TO "DISCRIMINATION." I DESCRIBED OUR SUCCESS IN HELPING BRING ABOUT DEFEAT BY HIRC OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD MANDATE AUTOMATIC TERMINATION OF ANY TRANSACTION (INCLUDING CASH SALES OF ARMS) WHERE RECIPIENT GOVERNMENT HAD DECLINED TO ADMIT ENTRY OF A PERSON WITH LEGITIMATE CONNECTION WITH TRANSACTION ON GROUNDS OF RELIGION, RACE, ETC. BUT I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SUCH PROVISION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY SFRC AND MAY STILL BE ENACTED INTO LAW THIS SESSION, DESPITE ADMINISTRATION'S OPPOSITION.

5. WE TOLD ALIREZA THAT COMMERCE WILL BE PUBLISHING SUPPLEMENT TO EXPORT ADMINISTRATION REGS PRESCRIBING THAT IT IS UNACCEPTABLE FOR TRADE DOCUMENT TO CONTAIN REFERENCE TO "STAR OF DAVID" AS SUCH. WE POINTED OUT THAT LANGUAGE OF COMMERCE ISSUANCE IS FAIRLY TECHNICAL AND DESIGNED TO BE AS UNCONFRONTATIONAL AS POSSIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. WE WILL BE SENDING YOU FURTHER WORD ON THIS.

6. FINALLY, WE TOOK UP PENDING ISSUE OF PROPOSED U.S. EXHIBITION IN SAUDI ARABIA IN MAY ON BUILDING MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. WE NOTED THAT SOME ASSURANCES WERE NEEDED ON ENTRY OF PERSONS AND EQUIPMENT IN VIEW OF DIRECT USG SPONSORSHIP. ALIREZA UNDERTOOK TO CONSIDER CERTAIN SUGGESTIONS AND TO LET US KNOW BY FEBRUARY 10 WHETHER OUR REQUIREMENTS COULD BE MET. IT WAS AGREED THAT, OTHERWISE, COMMERCE WOULD TAKE DECISION

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TO POSTPONE THE EXHIBITION, CITING ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICAL REASONS. WE WILL ALSO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU FURTHER ON THIS MATTER. SISCO

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, TRAVEL CONTROLS, ENTRY VISAS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** powellba  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** SSOBER:LAB  
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**Subject:** SAUDI VISA POLICY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CVIS, PEPR, SA, US  
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